

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4, starting with “Moreover” and ending with “have been selected” with the following amended paragraph.

Moreover, assays for free protein S based on immobilized monoclonal antibodies directed to free protein S, which are used as immobilized antibody in standard ELISA (Enzyme Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay) to capture free protein S in plasma, have been described in the literature and are also commercially available from Stago (Amiral et al., Blood Coag. Fibrinol. 1994, 5:179-186, and Wolf et al., Blood Coag. Fibrinol. 1994, 5:187-192). In such tests, plasma dilutions in buffer containing calcium are incubated in ~~micrometer~~ microtiter plates containing monoclonal antibodies specific for free protein S, and, subsequent to washing steps, protein S bound to the monoclonal antibodies can be detected with the use of a second mono- or polyclonal antibody directed to protein S. However, such assays are extremely expensive. Furthermore, the antibodies used in these tests are not well characterized and they have not been raised specifically against any region of protein S suggested to be involved in the binding of C4BP to protein S. Rather, these antibodies have been raised against the entire protein S molecule, whereafter antibodies having specificity for free protein S have been selected.

Please replace the paragraph on page 4, starting with “More specifically” and ending with “claim 1” with the following amended paragraph.

More specifically, the present invention is concerned with a ~~method~~ kit as defined in claim 1.